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NOTE VERBALE DATED 25 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the letter of Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, Chairman of the Parliament, Head of State.

We would greatly appreciate if you could distribute this letter as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

Letter dated 25 December 1992 from the Chairman of the Parliament and Head of State of the Republic of Georgia addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to express my appreciation for the attention and good will the United Nations has shown with respect to the processes under way in Georgia. Our greatest pain is the conflict in Abkhazia and I think the United Nations fully realizes that the escalation of the existing confrontation could destabilize the entire Caucasus region. Extremist separatism spells danger to our country as well as to our neighbours and I believe that this phenomenon can be ruinous to the whole of mankind should it become widespread.

Permit me to express hope that the fruitful cooperation between Georgia and the United Nations will keep developing and thus we shall be able to establish peace by a joint effort.

Currently, the situation in Abkhazia is very complex. The illegal penetration of the Georgian territory by foreign nationals fighting for the Abkhaz military units against Georgia shows no sign of halting. In fact, trains loaded with arms and ammunition pass unhindered from the Russian Federation into the conflict zone.

Particularly disturbing is the participation of the Russian troops stationed in Abkhazia on the side of Abkhaz extremists.

During this month planes with Russian markings have subjected civilian targets to systematic bombings. It is quite clear that all this is being directed by the reactionary forces ensconced within the political circles of the Russian Federation who, with the view to regaining lost ground, unleashed a fierce war against President Yeltsin at the Congress of People's Deputies. It is because of these forces that the confrontation between the democratically elected Georgian authorities and Abkhaz separatists due to increasingly intensive interference on the part of the Russian military units is clearly turning into an inter-State conflict. These forces are also responsible for virtually invalidating the 3 September Moscow agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation which provided for peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz conflict and to which the Georgian side has been fully committed all along. They must also be blamed for the complications that have occurred in the course of the Georgian-Russian negotiations aimed at preparing a package of treaties. In fact, the negotiations have now been halted. On 17 December, the Georgian Parliament voiced its view on the current state of relationships between Georgia and the Russian Federation. We are grateful to you personally and the Security Council for the efforts to help the Georgian authorities achieve peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz conflict. Those efforts have included the 8 October statement by the President of the Security Council (S/24637), the 9 October resolution, the activities of the two missions sent to Georgia and those of the newly opened Tbilisi-based United Nations bureau.

We would also like to note that unless every side or State interested in stability and peace in the Caucasus abides by the decisions and the resolution of the Security Council, every attempt at a fair resolution of the Abkhaz conflict will prove ineffectual.

Since the time the Security Council considered the conflict in Georgia and adopted a relevant resolution, the military-political situation has somewhat changed. Taking into account the present realities, we deem it necessary that a new resolution should be adopted on this issue. To this end I would like to inform you of some of the ideas that may prove useful in future activities of the Security Council:

(a) Since, as it has already been noted, the military-political situation in the conflict zone has changed, we are inclined to think that the issue must again be placed on the agenda of the Security Council. Because of the Christmas vacations, the consideration of the above issue can be scheduled for the middle of January 1993.

(b) The extreme gravity of the problem, as well as the global complications that might follow, should the conflict escalate, prompt the desirability of making the issue a subject of formal debate in the Security Council.

(c) The highly tense situation in the conflict zone and the potential for its further complication necessitates the adoption by the Security Council of a new resolution which should, in my opinion, include the decision to urgently send a United Nations peace-keeping force to the Abkhazian region.

(d) I believe that an appeal by the Security Council to Georgia's neighbouring States, calling on them to support the efforts for peaceful settlement of the Abkhaz problem and to refrain from any actions that may cause a further escalation of the confrontation would considerably contribute to the peaceful settlement of the given conflict.

(e) I also deem it advisable that an appeal be adopted by the Security Council, which would call on all the States Members of the United Nations not to allow any encroachment on the territorial integrity of sovereign Georgia - a Member State of the United Nations.

(f) Coordination efforts pertaining to the Abkhaz conflict among the Security Council and various regional and subregional international organizations could also, in my view, be highly effective.

May I hope that the Security Council and you personally will as always handle our problems with due care and that the above suggestions could be of some value in your difficult and responsible work.

As to the Republic of Georgia, it is fully aware of its responsibilities and is always prepared to fulfil all the obligations it has assumed as a Member State of the United Nations and of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Looking forward to further development of our relations,

(Signed) Eduard SHEVARDNADZE